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Elso S. Barghoorn
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Brandon Lignite
Project
Summer 1947. Expense Chart

Summer 1974 - Expenses

August 1946

The Brandon lignite collection turned up in reorganizing and rearranging the paleobotanical collections. The collection is fairly complete - the same as it was in 1937. The material had apparently not been studied since that time

The woods of the Brandon lignite show a very small but appreciable retention of cellulose. Microscope shows this to be the degraded residue of the primary + outer 2nd walls of the wood cell walls. The fruits appear to have more cellulose retained.

October 1946.

New interest in the Brandon lignite problem came up at the lunch table when IMJ produced several of the "fruits" from his pocket + based them on the table with the inevitable question - 'what are these'.

Nov 1946

It would seem from a consideration of the Brandon lignite problem that it might be a worthwhile project to seriously consider. As a research problem there would be ample opportunity for a PhD project

Question is can the material be reexposed and fresh collections made.

Examination of the lignite shows extraordinary abundance of pollen grains of dicotyledonous forms also cuticles of leaves and other miscellaneous fragments. The material has the character of a peat, although it is ~~definitely~~ brown coal in consistency

Dec 14, 1946

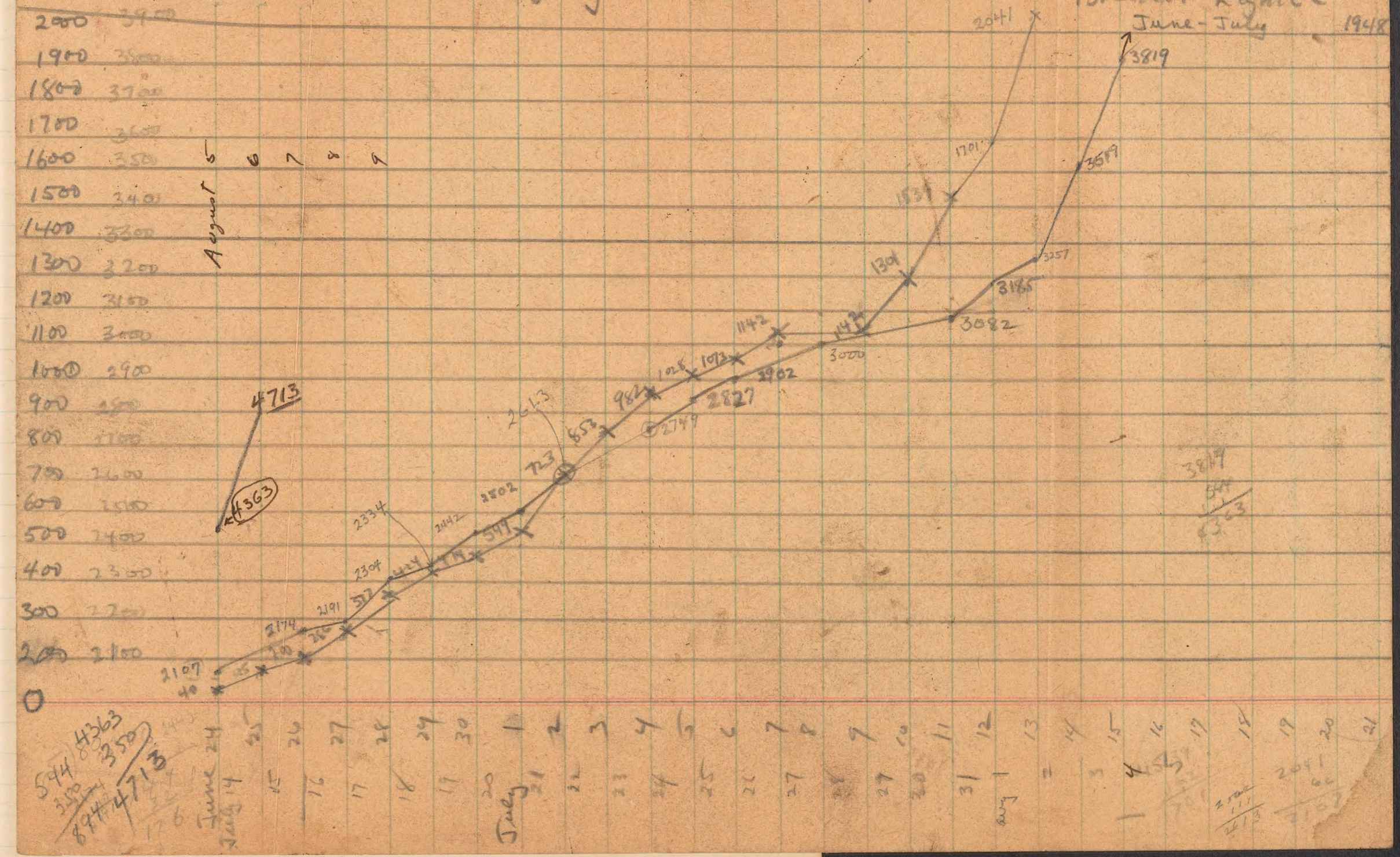
We visited the locality in Brandon. By great good fortune made contact with Mr George Laird who at the age of 82 showed the keenest interest in the prospect of recovering the lignite again. Laird built a shaft which cut through the deposit in 1902. He estimated the depth of the lignite at over 20 feet The deposit is over 40 feet from the present surface.
The old shafts have all collapsed. The area in the vicinity is honeycombed with collapsed drifts and shafts.
Made contact with the owner of the property on which the lignite is located. Mrs. J. W. Horn. Mrs Horn indicated her willingness to allow construction of a shaft on the land which is now a little used pasture.
It will be possible to make cores across the area. A drilling machine is available and all the appurtenances - even a man to run it.
This visit was as successful as could be wished for. All that is needed is money to carry out the project.

Dec — Applied for funds for the Brandon lignite project. Estimated basic needs at no less than $1,500. Applied for $2000 from the Milton fund.

Jan — Received the Milton grant of $2000

March — W.S. received $500 from Parker fellowship funds for the field work on the Brandon lignite project. Funds for the project are now $2500

May W.S. and I made the second trip to Beaverdon. Everything seems in order to start work in June. The drilling equipment should be in order by then. Mrs Horn agrees to the project Mr George Davids son is agreeable to letting a contract for $1000 to construct the shaft. I agreed to this it is above the estimate but seems reasonable. Work on the shaft should start in July - should take 3 weeks to complete. The contract will call for a timbered shaft 4 x 5 feet, No drifting. Estimated depth 40 feet.


Increment by day - Collection of Specimens - Brandon Lignite
June-July 1948
August 5 6 7 8 9
2000
1900
1800
1700
1600
1500
1400
1300
1200
1100
1000
900
800
700
600
500
400
300
200
0
4713
4363
2107
2174
2191
2304
2334
2442
2502
2613
2749
2827
2902
3000
3082
3185
3257
3519
3819
2041
1701
1531
1301
1142
1073
1028
982
853
723
549
June 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21
July 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
Aug 1 2 3 4

1/2 - 7 - 21 gal - 147 ft

1/2 - 3 - 21 blacks - 63 ft

1 1/2 - 6 - 21 = 126

1 - 20 20

1 - 17 17

163 ft

2 bushings .42

32.40

5) 162

15

12

10

20

.20